

# SENATE BILL 201

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CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

8lr1894

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By: **Senator Dyson**

Introduced and read first time: January 18, 2008

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Elective Franchise – Voting by 17–Year–Old Citizens**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing certain citizens who are less than 18 years old to vote  
4 in certain elections under certain circumstances; making stylistic changes; and  
5 submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the State of Maryland for  
6 their adoption or rejection.

7 BY proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution  
8 Article I – Elective Franchise  
9 Section 1

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
11 MARYLAND, (Three–fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses  
12 concurring), That it be proposed that the Maryland Constitution read as follows:

13 **Article I – Elective Franchise**

14 1.

15 All elections shall be by ballot. Every citizen of the United States, [of the age of  
16 18 years or upwards] **WHO IS AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD OR WILL BE 18 YEARS OLD**  
17 **ON OR BEFORE THE DAY OF THE NEXT SUCCEEDING GENERAL OR SPECIAL**  
18 **ELECTION**, who is a resident of the State as of the time for the closing of registration  
19 next preceding the election, shall be entitled to vote in the ward or election district in  
20 which [he] **THE CITIZEN** resides at all elections to be held in this State. A person once  
21 entitled to vote in any election district, shall be entitled to vote there until [he] **THE**  
22 **PERSON** shall have acquired a residence in another election district or ward in this  
23 State.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the General Assembly  
2 determines that the amendment to the Maryland Constitution proposed by this Act  
3 affects multiple jurisdictions and that the provisions of Article XIV, § 1 of the  
4 Maryland Constitution concerning local approval of constitutional amendments do not  
5 apply.

6           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the foregoing section  
7 proposed as an amendment to the Maryland Constitution shall be submitted to the  
8 legal and qualified voters of this State at the next general election to be held in  
9 November, 2008 for their adoption or rejection pursuant to Article XIV of the  
10 Maryland Constitution. At that general election, the vote on this proposed amendment  
11 to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and upon each ballot there shall be printed the  
12 words "For the Constitutional Amendment" and "Against the Constitutional  
13 Amendment," as now provided by law. Immediately after the election, all returns shall  
14 be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the proposed amendment, as  
15 directed by Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution, and further proceedings had in  
16 accordance with Article XIV.